



APRIL 2019 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"We just wanted to celebrate The American Legion – past, present, future. I'm in awe of what The American Legion and our forefathers have done and accomplished in a century to give us the benefits we have today. I feel like we owe it to them, and our kids and grandkids, to continue that legacy."

- Jason Castleberry, adjutant of American Legion Post 100 in Royse City, Texas, during an American Legion 100th Birthday party on March 16



\$1.5 mil

Minimum amount of funds raised by American Legion posts to support VA medical facilities in 2018, according Consolidated Post Reports, representing about 65 percent of posts worldwide.



695

Number of Informal Hearing Presentations prepared by The American Legion for veterans disputing their VA benefits claims decisions in March.



382-0

Final House vote in favor of the American Legion-supported Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, which was blocked in the Senate in December. U.S. Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, re-introduced the measure Jan. 3, with nearly identical language.

 **\$138,000**

Amount in scholarship money awarded to competitors in The American Legion National Oratorical Contest April 4-5.



12

Number of American Legion district membership revitalization campaigns executed in March 2019, in the departments of Arkansas, California, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire and Washington.



1,278

Number of VA benefits decision appeals handled in March by American Legion staff experts, 459 of which were granted in favor of the veterans, with 522 remanded, or sent back for more documentation.

 **\$4.2 million**

Minimum amount in college scholarships awarded to students by American Legion posts in 2018, according to Consolidated Post Reports, representing about 65 percent of posts worldwide.

 **\$48,600**

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund cash grants distributed to individuals through the first quarter of 2019, including four grants totaling \$12,000 in the month of March, to assist veterans affected by hurricane in North Carolina, flooding in Kentucky and fire in California.



101

Number of Benefits Delivery at Discharge reviews conducted by American Legion staff to help active-duty personnel prepare for VA health-care enrollment after separation.



2,558

Minimum number of American Legion posts that had Facebook pages in 2018.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

March 28, 1919: *Stars and Stripes* publishes the first story in which “The American Legion” is named as an organization of wartime veterans.

“No one can lay claim to originating the idea of a veterans’ association because it was a consensus among the men of the armed forces of our nation ... It was the result of what might be called the ‘spontaneous opinion’ of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, caused by a fusing together in a common bond of the various elements of the service, just as spontaneous combustion is brought about by the joint action of certain chemical elements.”

–George S. Wheat, “The Birth of the Legion,” 1919, G.P. Putnam’s Sons



Percent of DoD infrastructure characterized as “failing” in 2018, according to the Pentagon.



67,400

Approximate number of American Legion centennial commemorative coins sold by the U.S. Mint through April 1. A percentage of proceeds helps fund American Legion programs and services.



ROAR/SWS

The American Legion Regional Office Action Review team conducted a site visit March 11-13 to assess performance at the New Orleans VA Regional Office. The System Worth Saving Task Force also conducted a visit to the Southeast Louisiana VA Health Care System in New Orleans during the same time frame.



2,414

Number of veterans memorials and monuments photographed, described and posted on The American Legion Memorials Database through April 1, at www.legion.org/memorials.



Total number of former American Legion Baseball players who will have been enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame by July.



12

Applications submitted to DoD by The American Legion on behalf of veterans seeking corrections to the characterizations of their military discharges.



500

Approximate number of American Legion Family members who participated in a Legion centennial celebration at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., March 29-30. Hall of Fame Class of 2019 inductee Lee Smith of Louisiana, who played American Legion Baseball in Natchitoches, La., before an 18-year record-breaking career as a Major League relief pitcher, was a featured guest at the event.



23

Percent of Department of Defense infrastructure characterized as in “poor” condition in 2018, according to the Pentagon.



\$6.4 billion

Amount by which annual DoD spending on infrastructure and housing – about 43 percent – has declined since 2012, when the Budget Control Act took hold.



1,535

Number of American Legion Baseball team registrations started by March 31, 1,190 of which had purchased insurance and paid their registration fees.